

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of the claims supersedes and replaces all prior claim listings.

Claims 1-19 (Cancelled).

20. (Currently Amended) An information acquiring apparatus comprising:

a database, ~~in which~~ having updatable content containing information relating to a media, ~~can be searched~~ searchable by key data generated ~~based on~~ as a function of information stored at a predetermined place of said media, ~~and in which~~ said content including an address of a server relating to the media ~~is stored~~;

means for obtaining from the server, through the Internet, an address of a website relating to the media, said website address being different than said server address ~~from the server~~; and

means for accessing, through the Internet, the website ~~based on~~ at the address of the website obtained from the server; and

means for updating said content of the database at any time through the Internet by connecting said database to said address of the website obtained from the server.

21. (Previously presented) The information acquiring apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising means for inquiring a user, before obtaining the address of the website, whether an access to the server is acceptable.

22. (Previously presented) The information acquiring apparatus according to claim 20, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

23. (Previously presented) The information acquiring apparatus according to claim 20, wherein the website provides a service so that a user can directly purchase another media or goods relating to the media via the website.

24. (Currently Amended) An information acquiring method comprising the steps of:
providing a database, having updatable content containing information relating to a media, searchable by key data generated as a function of information stored at a predetermined place of said media, said content including an address of a server relating to the media;

accessing, through the Internet, a the server based on an the address stored in a said database in which information relating to a media can be searched by key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media; and

obtaining from the server, through the Internet, an address of a website relating to the media, said website address being different than said server address; from the server

accessing, through the Internet, the website at the address obtained from the server; and
updating said content of the database at any time through the Internet by connecting said database to said address of the website obtained from the server.

25. (Previously presented) The information acquiring method according to claim 24, further comprising the step of inquiring a user whether the access to the server is acceptable before connecting the server.

26. (Previously presented) The information acquiring method according to claim 24, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

27. (Previously presented) The information acquiring method according to claim 24, wherein the website provides a service so that a user can directly purchase another media or goods relating to the media via the website.

28. (Currently Amended) A program to be executed in a computer, the program comprising instructions for updating content of a database, said content containing information relating to a media, searchable by key data generated as a function of information stored at a predetermined place of said media, said content including an address of a server relating to the media, said instructions being executable for performing the steps of:

accessing, through the Internet, a the server based on an the address stored in a said
~~database in which information relating to a media can be searched by key data generated based on information at a predetermined place of said media; and~~

obtaining from the server, through the Internet, an address of a website relating to the media, said website address being different than said server address; from the server

accessing, through the Internet, the website at the address obtained from the server; and
updating said content of the database at any time through the Internet by connecting said database to said address of the website obtained from the server.

29. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 28, further comprising the step of inquiring a user whether the access to the server is acceptable before connecting the server.

30. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 28, wherein said key data is generated by calculating a portion of index data of said media in a predetermined manner.

31. (Previously presented) The program according to claim 28, wherein the website provides a service so that a user can directly purchase another media or goods relating to the media via the website.